

HEADQUARTERS
267TH REGIMENT
OFFICE OF CHIEF OF SERVICES (PROVISIONAL)
APO 512, U.S. ARMY

5 December 1944

SUBJECT: Salary of Esolt Aradi

TO : Finance Officer

THRU : Chief SI

FROM : Chief SICE

Subject's salary and allowances have been a source of considerable confusion since his employment in July of this year.

For the first month of his service he was paid 40,000 lire and no allowances for rations or quarters were given. Beginning with the second month of his employment and continuing through September he was paid 40,000 lire plus an allowance of 7000 to 7500 lire as a civilian employee's rations and quarters allowance. During October, while still on duty in Bari he was told by the Finance Officer that such allowances were given only to American civilians in this Theater. He nevertheless received, on the 1st of Nov., his salary of 40,000 lire for the month of October plus 3000 lire which he was told was to reimburse him for his mess charges for October. Subsequent to his transfer to Caserta he was told again that no allowances whatsoever could be granted because he is a stateless civilian and he received only his base pay of 40,000 lire. He was also told that the only compensation for the loss of the allowance is a possible increase in base pay.

I recognize that Mr. Aradi is getting a reasonably good salary from this organization, but which is nevertheless only equivalent to what he was receiving in his previous employment which also furnished him excellent living accommodations and food free of charge. Ordinarily I would not be inclined to recommend an increase in salary for Mr. Aradi but this is only one of a series of instances when non-American civilians employed by the organization have been placed in the embarrassing position of being discriminated against in petty ways, such as being denied allowances, being denied access to the PX, having their right to eat at GSS messes questioned, etc. To men who have given up their native citizenship and severed ties with their native countries and who now wish to become American citizens at the first legal opportunity, this piecemeal discrimination produces an effect on morale far out of proportion to its financial importance.

Under the circumstances I recommend either (a) that some way be found to give Mr. Aradi and others in the same position allowances and privileges commensurate with the confidence this organization has expressed in them in the work they are doing for the organization, or (b) that the base pay be increased to cover the allowances in question.

Will the Finance Officer please inform me as to what steps should be taken.

H.M. CHAFIN, Lt. Col. AUS

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